

Paddleboard/Kayak Fishing

Please join us for our August meeting when club member Matt Santilli will talk to us about how he fishes from his paddleboard. His tips will also apply to kayak and canoe fishing as well as wading. Matt joined our club a few years ago and is one of our most successful fly anglers. He will bring his equipment and present photos. Attend our meeting and you will soon catch a fish as pictured below. Well maybe...



**Next meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
4 August 2026**

We meet at the Northdale Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We will provide pizza and drinks, so join us for an enjoyable evening. Families and newcomers are welcome to walk in and check out the club. **Come early about 5:30 to practice fly casting.**



Directions to Our Meeting: (6:30 pm) Northdale Rec Center: Take Dale Mabry north past Ehrlich Road and then left on Northdale Blvd. Then left on Spring Pine Drive and straight to the Rec Center on the right.
[15510 Hooting Owls Pl, Tampa, FL 33624](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed our last meeting where we focused on fly tying. Thanks to those members who tied including Leigh, Mike, Ted, Abby and, of course, our close friend Robert. We remember Robert laughing and smiling while tying as he often did bringing joy to our lives.

I did not receive any input for our newsletter this month, so I guess the heat and humidity is keeping folks indoors. Fishing can still be very good early or late, so keep that in mind. Low evening tides can produce good sight fishing for redfish. Along those lines I can use other input besides fishing reports. For example, new gear you found and like, how-to tips and seafood recipes. I am sure many of you have good ideas and this collective sharing will make our club stronger.

We are seeking new members for our board of directors. The same folks have carried the load for many years and some new perspective is welcome and healthy. It 's not a hard job and we meet about once a month in the winter at a restaurant to discuss things. We also exchange ideas via email. Please let me know if you might be interested. Meanwhile, take care and appreciate your friends and time on the water.

//Walt Durkin 

Fly Fishing Quotes

"The angler forgets most of the fish he catches, but he does not forget the streams and lakes in which they are caught. - Charles K. Fox

"Fish are, of course, indispensable to the angler. They give him an excuse for fishing and justify the fly rod without which he would be a mere vagrant."

"Fish sense, applied in the field, is what the old Zen masters would call enlightenment: simply the ability to see what's right there in front of you without having to sift through a lot of thoughts and theories and, yes, expensive fishing tackle."

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Walt Durkin

Walt.durkin@aol.com

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813-455-4016

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813-787-2556

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813-361-8801

Pat Damico

727-504-8649

Robert Fischer

813-495-5685

Ginny Fischer

813-495-5685

Bruce Anderson

813-786-3902

Jim Dye

941-730-3647

Keaton Anderson

404-313-7820

July Meeting Photos

Thanks to everyone who tied at our July meeting. Learning and sharing knowledge is an important part of our club activities. And, catching a fish on a fly you created is a great thrill.



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

Our August meeting will feature one of our younger anglers, Matt Santilli. Matt catches loads of fish from his paddle board using a variety of methods to include spin, casting reel and, of course, fly fishing. He will bring his gear and give us tips on his success. I met Matt on the Cypress flat a few years ago and introduced myself after seeing him catch several of those pesky red fish. Maybe we can even talk Matt into sharing a couple of secret spots!

In September, Capt. Bryon Chamberlin will present a slide show of his trip to St. Brandon's Atoll. A remote archipelago widely considered one of the premier saltwater fly fishing destinations on Earth, famous for its world-class, 100% wade-fishing flats. Anglers flock here for trophy-sized bonefish, Indo-Pacific permit, and massive Giant Trevally.

In October we have a retired Tampa Bay tug boat captain who also collects antique fly gear. He will bring some of his tackle and also recount a few stories of his many days on the water. Please bring any old gear you have for display.

We are seeking a presenter in November and welcome ideas.

Tampa Fishing Outfitters is hosting fly tying on Wednesdays at their Tampa location. See our Facebook page for details.

Catch of the Month Photo Contest

To all members of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Here is your chance to be on the front page of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club website! Each month we will review and display the best member photo of your fishy catch. The best photo will be judged on the quality of fish caught, composition of the image as well as the excitement of the moment of the catch.

Send all photos with subject line Photo Contest along with your first and last name to: Tampabayffc@gmail.com

Be sure to show the lucky angler, the fish and lure (hopefully a fly) in your photo. All entries will receive a raffle ticket for a nice prize, which we will award at our annual Holiday Party.

No one sent me a picture so I threw in a nice brown trout I caught last month in Colorado. They are one of my favorite trout.



Google Groups for Fly Fishing



Use the **Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Google Group** to reach out and communicate with other club members about fly fishing! This resource is available to obtain information about fishing, connect with fishing partners, inquire about areas to fish, techniques, flies, or anything appropriate to fishing!

**Please note that this is a private forum,
and is limited to club members.**

**To join, please email: Sightcaster@gmail.com with your request.
Subject Line: TBFFC Google Group
You must have a Google or Gmail account to join.**

Bonefish Trip to Two Boy's Inn 17-24 Oct

We have two openings for this trip to the Bahamas. Two Boy's Inn is located on Andros one, of the best locations in the world for big bonefish. After many trips to this lodge I can attest that our host Malinda runs a tight ship with good food, accommodations and six days of guided fishing. We fly to Nassau and then a hop to Andros for a week of super fishing with friends. Cost is only \$3000 for the week, one of the best deals in the Bahamas. Please see me at our meeting or send me an email.
//Walt



Fly Fishing Tip

I found this tip on YouTube on Mad River Outfitters. He has many good video's on fly fishing and fly casting, including one with Flip Pallot. If you like to look at fly fishing stuff on YouTube, then check it out!

Meanwhile, this tip demonstrates practicing your cast while on one knee. This stance will helps you to learn to cast with the tip of the rod. Additionally, you will learn to let the rod do the work it's designed for. You can make a beautiful, smooth cast from this position with little effort. This relatively short casting stroke is simple, yet effective. Add a double haul with the same movement for added distance.

I caught another video of 97-year-old Joe Humphrey still performing at a fishing show. Joe is still able to cast 70 to 80 feet with only arm action and a tight elbow as shown on the right.



Robert Fischer

On 15 July we said goodbye to our good friend Robert. I did not speak at his memorial because I was too emotional. Thankfully, many of his close friends and family recounted wonderful stories of the life he lead.

Robert was a founding member of our fly fishing club and for that I will be always grateful. Myself, and other club member made many fine memories with Robert on our fishing adventures. He was an excellent angler, fly fisherman, great companion and friend.

Finally, I thank him for making me a better person. He was one of the good ones and I valued the time we spent together. We miss him dearly and will remember all our good times on the water.

Robert is pictured below on one of our trips to the Bahamas and at our last outing on Lake Calm. //Walt



Bruce and I fished a clear mountain stream 2 hours NW of Ft Collins. We caught more willing brook trout then we could count and also brown and rainbows. We also beat the 100 degree heat in town while wet wading at 9350 feet in altitude.



Another Mountain Trip

On a Friday, Bruce, Lou and I headed into the Rockies for more hiking and trout fishing. Alas, Bruce's wife Patty was stuck at home with back pain. This time our destination was Longdraw Reservoir about two hours NW of Ft Collins. As we approached the trail head to Corral Creek we found over a dozen cars parked there. It turned out the local fishing club had an outing scheduled , so we continued another mile to where the La Poudre Pass Creek flows into Longdraw at an altitude of 10,094 feet. Two fisherman were already there, but graciously offered us their spot saying they had caught several big cutthroat trout already. We proceeded to catch seven cutthroats from 13 to 16 inches on dry flies. What fun to see these magnificent fish rise slowly in the clear water and slurp your fly. They hit caddis, stimulators and several other flies, but also rejected some. These were beautiful, healthy fish and strong fighters on our four weights.

After two hours of fishing we stopped and ate lunch at a picnic table and then went to fish a nearby creek in the Neota Wilderness Area, part of the Roosevelt National Forest. We hiked up a beautiful trail thru the woods and caught native greenback cuts on dry flies. These little guys from 5 to 8 inches, eagerly attacked our dry flies. We fished size 14 flies to keep the small ones away and encourage the bigger ones to strike. We also kept a lookout for moose, which we had seen there on previous trips. We had also found some of those big cuts up that creek on higher water, but not on this low-water year. Nonetheless, we enjoyed playing with the greenbacks, carefully getting them back in the water.

The temperature was 65 degrees when we arrived under blue, cloudless skies. Additionally, little or no wind made for a perfect day with breathtaking views from the top of the little world we had the privilege to enjoy. Thank you President Roosevelt for preserving this wonderful national forest.

Always on the lookout for critters, on the way home we saw a bald eagle, deer, a marmot and one big bull moose. A perfect end to a wonderful day in the mountains.

Bruce fishing La Poudre Pass Creek flowing into Longdraw





Douglas Fly Rod sent us a 40% off deal. Read the details below and let me know if you would like to buy one of their rods. They cost \$500 to \$900 retail. //Walt

Hi Tampa Bay Fly Fishers,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Chelsea and I'm reaching out from Douglas Outdoors, the makers of the **award-winning SKY G** and **DXF Gen2** fly rods. We've been expanding our presence in Florida and wanted to connect with your club, given your members' strong focus on saltwater fly fishing.

Our Douglas Saltwater Series rods were built specifically for the demands of Florida's fisheries, engineered for long, accurate casts in windy conditions and with salt-resistant components that stand up to tarpon, redfish, snook, and bonefish.

I did attach our complete fly rod digital catalog, but more specifically **page 15** outlines ALL our saltwater fly rods that we offer.

To introduce your club to Douglas, we'd like to extend an **exclusive offer** just for your members, special pricing (40% off MSRP) on all Douglas saltwater fly rods.

If this sounds like a good fit, simply reply to this email and we'll get your group set up with usernames for our portal right away all we will need are email addresses to get them signed up. We'd love to see Douglas rods in the hands of your anglers this season and to support your club's events however we can.

Tight lines,

Chelsea Lehman

[Douglas Outdoors](#)

43 County Rt 59 Phoenix, NY 13135

o:315-216-9584 | c:315-399-7307



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Advantages of Fly Fishing

One of the many advantages to fly fishing is when the bite is on, a lot of fish can be caught. We don't have to fool around with weights, swivels, snaps, and finicky braided line, but especially bait. Procuring live baits and keeping them healthy, the time needed to rebait and release smaller or non-targeted fish, and the chance of frequently harming them is greatly minimized. Cut bait is not always readily available. Once the proper fly is selected to "match the hatch," a single fly can last a long time, especially when constructed with synthetic materials. Since most of our flies that imitate shrimp, crabs, and baitfish have a single hook, catch and release or catch and keep is simple once the fish is on. Filing or crimping the barb will not hamper your catch rate as long as adequate pressure is kept on the fish. Many hooks are available that are barbless. Use adequate leader strength and nonabrasive tippets that are strong enough for the fish you seek. When fighting fish, keep your rod tip low and close to the water, always maintaining a soft bend. A mechanical gripping device and a dehooker similar to the ones used to quickly remove bait from a Sabiki rig minimize or eliminate the need to handle fish while keeping them in the water. When taking a picture, lift the fish horizontally from the water with wet hands and never hold it out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico wrote these tips for the Tampa Times and he lets us publish them for our club members. Thanks Pat!

Fishing Report

Reds should school up this month. You should find them on shallow flats where they'll be easier to find when the tide is low. Look for "nervous" water when it is slick calm or a slick patch of water when there is a ripple on the water. They may push a wake that looks like a boat wake. I try to be as quiet as possible in shallow water, poling to locate them. Once you've located a school of reds, try to get ahead of them to intercept them, much like tarpon fishing. If you work around the edges of the school, you may be able to catch a few of them before they spook. We often also find big jacks, blues and other predators in the mix along with reds. Fly poppers or Gurglers may draw some big strikes!

Trout fishing is usually good in August. You may find a big trout in skinny water at first light. Focus on mullet or bait schools to find them. Fly poppers or Gurglers should be very effective at that time of day. I like the same areas for big trout that I like for reds. Full regulations and details for all species can be viewed at <https://myfwc.com/>

SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com) 923-7799.



2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 24 Fly Casting Clinic
- Jan 17 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 20-21 Waterman Tournament
- Feb 21 Cypress Park Outing w/Suncoast
- Mar 28 Annual Banquet
- May 30 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct 17 Carl Hanson, Hillsborough River
Rotary Park and Trout Creek
- 7-13 Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov 15 Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec 11 Kayaking Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 19 Suncoast Outing, Ft Desoto

Corporate Sponsors

These companies sponsored the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club. Some are members of the club. We urge you to patronize them.

- REDFISH LANDING GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. John Hand www.RedfishLandingGuideService.com, (239) 842-7778
- SNOOK FIN-ADDICT GUIDE SERVICE, Capt. Rick Grassett, (941) 923-7799, www.snookfin-addict.com
- Tampa Fishing Outfitters, 3916 W. Osborne Ave, Tampa, FL; 813-870-1234, tampafishingoutfitters.com

Tampa Fishing Outfitters
Largest tackle shop on the W. coast of FL great fly fishing gear

3916 W. Osborne Ave. Tampa FL, 33614

Phone: 813-870-1234

Website: tampafishingoutfitters.com

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<i>Custom Built Saltwater Flies</i>	
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Member Benefits

TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One fly-casting lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- Annual Banquet

Fly Fishing Guides

- Capt. Nick Angelo (813) 230-8473
- Capt. David Grassett (941) 923-7799
- Capt. John Hand (239) 842-7778
- Capt. Greg Peterson (423) 432-1973

Fly Casting Coaches

South Tampa

Walt Durkin.....813-853-5870

North Tampa

Jonas Magnusson.....361 903 2846

Robert Fischer.....813-495-5685

Leigh West813-971-8697

Ted Hagaman.....813-920-7863

St. Petersburg

Capt. Pat Damico.....727-504-8649

Winter Haven

Mike Franz.....239-269-5016

Member Application

Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Hm.Phone: _____ Wk. Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$40.00 Individual Membership

\$50.00 Family Membership

\$150.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

Five-year dues: \$160.00 Individual Membership

\$200.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/O Walt Durkin at 3401
W. Vasconia St, Tampa, FL 33629